

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a communication network in which one master device and a plurality of slave devices are connected via a multiplexer to each other in a tree form with the master device provided at the vertex, the master device specifies each of the slave devices via the multiplexer according to a round-robin. Then the slave device transmits specific information for starting used for matching the sampling time to the master device according to the specified order. Finally, the sampling time is adjusted by executing a prespecified operation according to the specific information for returning returned from the master device in response to the specific information for starting.